



Michael F. Easley
Governor

Tom Shaheen
Executive Director

State of North Carolina Education Lottery

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Jan. 19, 2006

Contact: Pamela Walker
Phone: (919) 233-7081

RETAILERS CLAMORING TO GET IN ON EDUCATION LOTTERY GAMES

RALEIGH – Eight-thousand application packets are in the mail to potential retailers who may be interested in selling Education Lottery tickets. Many retailers across the state requested the packets by registering on the Web site for the North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL), calling NCEL staff or writing letters.

“The retailer interest is very exciting and keeping us right on schedule for the April 5 launch for the first ever Education Lottery tickets to be sold in North Carolina,” said Tom Shaheen, executive director. “We’ve already received about 1,300 commitments either verbally or by application.”

In addition to the 8,000 application packets that were just put in the mail today, the packets were made available on line just over a week ago. The interest also is evident by the fact that the NCEL phones are ringing off the hook and the number of calls are increasing daily. Retailers wanting to be able to sell tickets on the launch day must have applications in to the NCEL office no later than Feb. 3.

100% of the net proceeds from ticket sales will go to the state for education to be used to help reduce class size, fund school construction and provide college scholarships to need-based individuals.

To download a packet or get additional information about the N.C. Education Lottery, visit its Web site at www.lottery.nc.gov, or call 919/715-6886 (71-LOTTO).

###